

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01
AGRE-00 ARA-10 /128 W
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R 050530Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6899
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0822

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PGOV ELAB SCUL MILI MARR EAGR SEDU MP US UR
FR MA
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - AUGUST 5 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 0804 (DTG 291050Z JUL 77)

1. PRIME MINISTER AMGOOLAM HAS BEEN AILING SINCE HIS
RETURN TO MAURITIUS JULY 19, AND HAS BEEN MOSTLY
RESTING AT HOME. STILL, PERSONS CLOSE TO HIM SAY THE
COMPLETE MEDICAL CHECK-UP HE HAD IN BRITAIN SHOWED
NO SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AN
AMERICAN PAPER REPUBLISHED HERE, RAM CALLED FOR THE
U.S. TO WITHDRAW FROM DIEGO GARCIA OR AT LEAST REDUCE
ITS PRESENCE THERE, AND HOPED THE U.S. AND THE USSR
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WOULD BOTH WITHDRAW THEIR NAVAL PRESENCE FROM THIS
PART OF THE WORLD. THE LOCAL PRESS PREDICTS THAT
DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL BE THE
PRINCIPAL PREOCCUPATION OF THE MAURITIAN DELEGATION
TO THE 32ND UNGA.

2. AT A LABOR PARTY RALLY FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER

DENOUNCED THOSE WHO WANT TO TURN MAURITIUS INTO A "LITTLE CUBA," POINTING OUT THAT CUBAN SUGAR PRODUCTION HAS FALLEN BY TWO-THIRDS SINCE CASTRO TOOK POWER. HE NOTED THAT MAURITIUS CAN'T SELL ITS SUGAR TO THE USSR BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS PAY FOR THEIR PURCHASES WITH ARMS AND THIS COUNTRY HAS NO USE FOR ARMS. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WALTER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT MAURITIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE STILL COOL AND THAT AMBASSADOR SAFRONOV HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED AFTER ONLY 16 MONTHS HERE. WALTER AND RAMGOOLAM BOTH SUGGESTED TO SAFRONOV THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY REDUCE ITS PRESENCE HERE. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS ARE "WORKING WITH" THE MARXIST-ORIENTED OPPOSITION PARTY, THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM).

3. MMM SECRETARY GENERAL BERENGER IS OFF SOON ON ANOTHER SWING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TO ARRANGE FOR HIS PET SCHEME OF A CONFERENCE OF "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES OF THIS REGION. THE MMM HAS ACCEPTED "OFFICIAL" INVITATIONS TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO IRAQ AND ROMANIA, AND DECIDED THAT PARTY PRESIDENT JUGNAUTH WOULD ACCOMPANY BERENGER ON THESE VISITS. ANOTHER PROMINENT MMM MILITANT, A SUGAR WORKER AND TRADE UNIONIST, HAS QUIT THE PARTY. HE TOLD THE PRESS HIS REASONS WERE THE DICTATORIAL BEHAVIOR OF BERENGER AND THE DOMINANCE IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP OF A CLIQUE
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OF "PETIT BOURGEOIS INTELLECTUALS" IN PLACE OF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING CLASS LIKE HIMSELF.

4. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED GENERAL WAGE INCREASES OF FROM 8 TO 3 PERCENT TO COMPENSATE FOR INFLATION, BUT BOTH THE EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION AND THE NATIONAL TRADE UNION FRONT REJECTED THE PROPOSAL AS "UNACCEPTABLE." NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE, AND A COMPROMISE IS LIKELY, ALTHOUGH THE UNIONS ARE MURMURING ABOUT A POSSIBLE GENERAL STRIKE. SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE BURSTING, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 12,000 STUDENTS ENROLLED AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW POLICY OF FREE TUITION. A FURTHER INCREASE OF 15,000 IS ANTICIPATED NEXT YEAR. THE WHITE LICE INFESTATION IS EXPECTED TO COST THE COUNTRY ONLY 25,000 TONS OF SUGAR PRODUCTION, OR 3.5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL.

5. THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT CARRIER, "FOCH," IS MAKING A WEEK'S VISIT HERE FOLLOWING DUTY OFF DJIBOUTI DURING THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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